

## News Release

For immediate release

Oct. 2, 2015

### **HCA launches new system for School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming program**

*System moves from paper-based claiming to web-based system for improved accountability*

OLYMPIA – The Health Care Authority (HCA) has launched a new web-based random moment time study (RMTS) and claiming system for school districts participating in the School-Based Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) Program. The new system replaces a paper-based system, and will help school districts meet program requirements, code and bill activities accurately, and avoid human error or inappropriate claiming.

HCA worked with school districts, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to develop key elements of the system. A pilot in five school districts helped HCA create and refine the system.

The MAC Program reimburses government entities (including school districts, state and local health departments, and tribes) a portion of the costs incurred by staff for performing allowable administrative activities that directly support the goals of the Medicaid State Plan. These activities typically include:

- Outreach activities to educate and inform students and families about the benefits of the Apple Health (Medicaid) program.
- Helping students and families enroll in Apple Health.
- Coordinating and monitoring Apple Health services to students.
- Linking or referring current and potential Apple Health clients to providers.

Previously, all staff participating in the MAC Program used a paper-based time keeping system where they were required to track 100 percent of their time in 15-minute increments for five full days each quarter. School district staff then had to manually input that information into an HCA claiming system to generate a claim.

With the new web-based RMTS and claiming system, participants are randomly selected to complete “moments” throughout the quarter. A moment is defined as one minute in time, and on average a participant should only have to complete several moments each quarter. The RMTS uses a statistical sampling technique to determine what portion of participants’ time is spent performing activities that are reimbursable.

“This system will significantly reduce the administrative burdens of the old paper-based system and automatically generate a claim for them once the quarter is over,” said HCA Community Services Manager Todd Slettvet. “With the old system, and the requirement to manually input all participant time study data, many schools were unable to get a claim processed for several months, and in some cases as long as a year. With the new system, claims will be generated and processed more timely, while still ensuring accuracy.”

HCA contracts with the University of Massachusetts Medical School for the RMTS system.

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**About Washington State Health Care Authority**

HCA is the state's top health care purchaser, covering more than 2 million Washington residents through Apple Health (Medicaid) and the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program. We work with partners to help ensure Washingtonians have access to better health and better care at a lower cost. For more information, visit [www.hca.wa.gov](http://www.hca.wa.gov).

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